

Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 30-34 to page 7, lines 1-3 of the specification as follows:

In one particular embodiment, the balloon is formed from a polyether block copolyamide (PEBAX®) and the crosslinkable heat shrink material is polyethylene. In this particular embodiment, a tie layer is employed. Examples of materials suitable for use in the tie layer include, polyethylenes modified with maleic anhydride, epoxide groups, oxazolines, carbodiimides, isocyanates, and so forth. Materials suitable for use in the tie layer are described in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Attorney Docket No. 10/822581 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0227087 A1) - S63.2-10865 which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, lines 10-13 as follows:

Balloon forming techniques may be found in Attorney Docket U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/753043 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0146085 A1) - S63.2-11298, or in US 449042, Levy, US 4963313, Noddin et al, US 5306246 Sahatjian, US 4935190, Tennerstedt, US 5714110, Wang et al, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 13, lines 7-10 as follows:

Such balloon forming techniques may be found in Attorney Docket U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/753043 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0146085 A1) - S63.2-11298, US 4963313, Noddin et al, US 5306246 Sahatjian, US 4935190, Tennerstedt, US

5714110, Wang et al., each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 13, lines 15-18 as follows:

Such balloon forming techniques may be found in Attorney-Docket U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/753043 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0146085 A1) S63.2-11298, US 4963313, Noddin et al., US 5306246 Sahatjian, US 4935190, Tennerstedt, US 5714110, Wang et al., each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

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A tie layer may optionally be incorporated between the crosslinkable layer and the base layer in any of the embodiments described herein. Incorporation of a tie layer is particularly advantageous where two different polymeric compositions having little compatibility or miscibility with one another are employed. Examples of materials suitable for use in the tie layer include, but are not limited to, maleic anhydride, epoxies, oxaline, carbodiimides, isocyanates, peroxides, and so forth. Such materials can be employed in relatively low amounts of 5 wt-% or less in order to achieve satisfactory results. Such tie layers are discussed above, and are disclosed in copending attorney docket number S63.2-10865 U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/822581 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0227087 A1) which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, lines 12-18 as follows:

Tie layers may operate by chemical interaction with the adjacent layer such as through the formation of covalent bonds, or they may simply be miscible or compatible with the polymeric compositions, and forming a mixture of sorts, at the interface between the tie layer and the polymeric composition upon welding of the joint, for example. Tie layers are known in the art. Specific types of tie layers are described in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Attorney Docket No. S63.2-10865 10/822581 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0227087 A1), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

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Fig. 5 is sectional perspective view of a multi layer tubular parison 10 in accordance with the invention further having a tie layer 16 between the base polymeric composition 12 and crosslinkable layer 14. In this embodiment, tubular parison 10 has a coextruded three layer construction comprising an inner layer 12 which defines the tubular parison, formed e.g. of PET, an outer heat shrink layer 14, formed e.g. of a crosslinked polyethylene, and a tie layer 16, formed e.g. of melt modified polyethylene. The melt modified polyethylene may be functionalized by inclusion in the melt of 10-20 %, total weight basis, of maleic anhydride and an effective amount of a catalyst such as a phosphate catalyst, e.g. triphenyl phosphite. This type of tie layer is described in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Attorney Docket No. S63.2-10865 10/822581 (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2005-0227087 A1), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.